AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing Of Claims

Claims 1 - 17 (canceled)

18. (previously presented) An assay for determining the concentration of a soluble epidermal growth factor receptor in a biological sample from a female patient, the assay comprising:

a) obtaining a biological sample from the female;

b) contacting an amount of a first purified antibody that specifically reacts with a first epitope of the extracellular ligand binding domain of soluble epidermal growth factor receptor with the biological sample to be tested, wherein the first purified antibody is modified with a first labeling moiety;

c) contacting the sample with an amount of a second purified antibody that specifically reacts with a second epitope of the extracellular ligand binding domain of soluble epidermal growth factor receptor, wherein the second purified antibody is modified with a second labeling moiety, and wherein the second purified antibody does not competitively inhibit the binding of the first purified antibody;

d) detecting the co-presence of the first and second labels to determine the concentration of the soluble epidermal growth factor receptor complexed with the antibodies; wherein one of the antibodies is chosen from the group consisting of mAb R.1 and an antibody which binds to the same epitope as mAb R.1; and wherein the other antibody is chosen from the group consisting of mAb 528 and an antibody which binds to the same epitope as mAb 528.

e) comparing the concentration of soluble epidermal growth factor receptor obtained in step d) with a normal value; and

f) correlating a decrease in the concentration of soluble epidermal growth factor receptor in the patient biological sample with the presence of an ovarian carcinoma in the patient.

19. (original) The assay of claim 18 wherein the normal value is obtained by assaying biological samples from females of approximately the same age as the patient.

20. (original) The assay of claim 18 further comprising the step of performing a second assay on a biological sample obtained from the patient at a point in time after the initial assay.

21. (original) The assay of claim 20, wherein the patient has undergone treatment for ovarian cancer selected from the group consisting of chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and surgical treatment in the interval between the initial and second assay.

22. (original) The assay of claim 20, further comprising the step of correlating an increase in the concentration of soluble epidermal growth factor receptor in the patient biological sample with an improved prognosis in the ovarian cancer condition.

23. (previously presented)The assay of claim 20, further comprising the step of correlating a decrease in the concentration of soluble epidermal growth factor receptor in the patient biological sample with a declining prognosis in the ovarian cancer condition.

24. (currently amended) The assay of claim 18 wherein the patient biological sample is chosen from the group consisting of urine, ~~saliva,~~ and ascites.

25. (original) The assay of claim 18 wherein the patient biological sample is chosen from the group consisting of blood, serum and plasma.

26. (original) The assay of claim 18 wherein the first labeling moiety is an affinity binding moiety.

27. (original) The assay of claim 26 wherein the affinity binding moiety is biotin.

28. (original) The assay of claim 27 wherein detection of the presence of the first labeling moiety is by binding of the biotin moiety to a solid support coated with a molecule chosen from the group consisting of streptavidin and avidin.

29. (original) The assay of claim 18 wherein the second labeling moiety is selected from the group consisting of a fluorescent moiety, a colorigenic moiety, and a chemiluminescent moiety.

30. (original) The assay of claim 18 wherein the second labeling moiety is acridinium.

31. (original) The assay of claim 30 wherein the detection of the presence of the second labeling moiety is by measuring light emitted from a chemiluminescent reaction utilizing the second labeling moiety.

32. (previously presented) The assay of claim 26 wherein the affinity binding moiety is an IgG2b specific antibody.